



U.S. National Parks & Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta

DATE: Oct. 8-19, 2028

12 days

You can't help but gaze in awe as you watch hundreds of balloons fill with hot air and float gracefully upward, covering the sky with color. You'll have the same reaction again and again on this inspiring tour, as you marvel at the Grand Canyon, see the famed Old Faithful, and stand in the shadow of the Grand Tetons. Each day displays a new destination—and with it new landscapes and adventures.



Pricing and Reservations: <https://forms.gle/ZepJek1TvQJX4VXb7>

Contact Marah Walsh for more details
1.215.208.0293 | marahwalsh@gmail.com

Your tour package includes

11 nights in handpicked hotels
11 breakfasts
4 dinners with beer or wine
9 sightseeing tours
Expert Tour Director & local guides
Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights

Albuquerque Balloon Festival
Mesa Verde National Park
Monument Valley
Grand Canyon
Zion National Park
Bryce Canyon National Park
Grand Teton National Park
Yellowstone National Park

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 2 hours daily across mostly flat terrain, including paved trails and dirt paths, with some hills and high altitudes.

Group size

15-35

Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta & U.S. National Parks

12 days

Albuquerque, New Mexico → 2 nights

Day 1: Arrival in Albuquerque

Included meals: welcome dinner

Welcome to New Mexico! Meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at this evening's welcome dinner.

Day 2: Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta

Included meals: breakfast

Wake up early to start your day at the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, the largest hot air balloon festival in the world.

- Watch hundreds of balloons take to the sky en masse during the "mass ascension"
- Enjoy access to a hospitality tent stocked with hot drinks and light snacks
- See the sky light up during the festival's AfterGlow Fireworks Show this evening

Please note: Travelers looking to take a hot air balloon ride must book this independently and far in advance through Rainbow Ryders.

Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado → 1 night

Day 3: Mesa Verde via Durango

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Cross into Colorado, stopping in the Old West mining town of Durango en route to Mesa Verde. Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

Kayenta, Arizona → 1 night

Day 4: Mesa Verde National Park & transfer to Kayenta

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Take a guided tour of Mesa Verde National Park.

- View fascinating 800-year-old cliff dwellings that honeycomb the walls of the canyon
- Enjoy free time to visit either the gift shop or Spruce Tree House and Museum

Pass by Monument Valley's iconic "Mexican Hat," a sombrero-shaped rock formation, as you travel to Kayenta, Arizona. Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

Grand Canyon, Arizona → 2 nights

Day 5: Grand Canyon via Tuba City

Included meals: breakfast

Journey southwest, stopping along the way to dive into the vibrant atmosphere of the Cameron Trading Post, a historic outpost that has served travelers and locals alike for more than a century. Browse a curated selection of Navajo artwork, jewelry, and crafts, and learn about the time-honored traditions of the artisans who created them.

As you continue to the Grand Canyon, feel the anticipation build for the awe-inspiring spectacle that awaits. After arriving at the South Rim, set out on a scenic walk guided by your Tour Director, who'll illuminate the geological wonders and natural splendor of the landscape.

- Marvel at towering rock formations that bear witness to millions of years of geological evolution, their striated layers revealing the passage of time in hues of red, orange, and ochre. Pause to take in panoramic vistas that stretch to the horizon, where the vast expanse of the Grand Canyon unfolds endlessly before you.
- Let your gaze catch on the mighty Colorado River meandering along the canyon floor, a dizzying mile below, as a sense of reverence washes over you. Here, you're reminded of the profound forces that have shaped this landscape and the enduring legacy of those who call this land home.

Day 6: Free day at the Grand Canyon

Included meals: breakfast

To fully appreciate the enormity of the Grand Canyon—it's not just a name after all—add a helicopter tour to your itinerary and take to the skies for an electrifying perspective.

Prefer to explore the Grand Canyon on terra firma? Craft your own walk or hike to the South Rim by hopping on the free shuttle from your hotel and going at your own pace. Dozens of trails await you, and the shuttle will whisk you back when you're ready to rest.

+ Grand Canyon Helicopter Ride

Zion National Park, Utah → 1 night

Day 7: Transfer to Zion National Park

Included meals: breakfast

Pass by the beautiful Vermilion Cliffs National Monument before arriving in Zion National Park.

- Discover why 19th-century Mormon settlers named the park after their heavenly city
- View the yellow-and orange-hued dramatically eroded sedimentary rocks
- Take in magnificent vistas on an open-air tram ride with guided commentary

Salt Lake City, Utah → 1 night

Day 8: Salt Lake City via Bryce Canyon National Park

Included meals: breakfast

En route to Utah's capital city, stop to visit Bryce Canyon National Park.

- Tour the park by bus and on foot
- Take in up-close views of its distinctive pink limestone and sandstone formations, including awe-inspiring arches, spires, and bridges
- View colorful rock pinnacles known as hoodoos

Then, continue on to Salt Lake City.

Jackson, Wyoming → 3 nights

Day 9: Transfer to Jackson & Grand Teton National Park

Included meals: breakfast

Cross into Wyoming on a scenic drive to the resort town of Jackson. Then, set out to explore Grand Teton National Park, home to the youngest mountain range in the Rockies.

- Drive through stunning Logan Canyon and past turquoise Bear Lake
- Tour Grand Teton National Park by bus and on foot
- Try and spot elk, coyotes, black bears, wolves, and the elusive mountain lion

Please note: The visit to Grand Teton National Park may take place on day 10 depending on seasonality and weather.

Enjoy a free evening in Jackson.

Day 10: Yellowstone National Park

Included meals: breakfast

Venture out for a full day of sightseeing in Yellowstone National Park, designated as the world's first national park in 1872.

- Drive through the park with stops for photos
- See cascading waterfalls, bubbling mud pots and the famous geyser, Old Faithful
- Keep an eye out for the bison, mountain goats, moose, and grey wolves that call the park home

Day 11: Free day in Jackson

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

Enjoy a free day in Jackson.

Then, head to a local restaurant to celebrate your trip at a farewell dinner this evening.

Flight Home**Day 12: Departure**

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.*

Day 6: Grand Canyon Helicopter Ride

From \$319.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info.

(30 minutes, departs in the morning)

Enjoy a bird's-eye view of the Grand Canyon aboard a thrilling half-hour-long helicopter ride. Soar over the massive canyon, taking in a unique perspective of the striated terrain far below. From high above the canyon rim, you can begin to fully appreciate the immense scale of this natural wonder. Please note: This excursion is weather-dependent.

*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. Go Ahead Tours accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at <https://www.goaheadtours.com/about/terms>.